

Claims

*What is claimed is:*

- 5    1. A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements  
for an aged pet and further comprising a sufficient amount of an  
antioxidant or mixture thereof, to inhibit the deterioration of the  
mental capacity of an aged companion pet.
2. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pet is a canine.
- 10   3. The diet in accordance with claim 2 wherein the canine is at  
least seven years.
4. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pet is a feline.
5. The diet in accordance with claim 4 wherein the feline is at least  
seven years.
- 15   6. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein Vitamin E is  
present in at least about 100 ppm of the diet.
7. The diet in accordance with claim 6 wherein an antioxidant  
selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine,  
alpha-lipoic acid or mixtures thereof is present in the diet.
- 20   8. The diet of claim 1 wherein an antioxidant selected from the  
group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or  
mixture thereof is present in the diet.
9. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C  
are in the diet.
- 25   10. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic  
acid are in the diet.
11. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine  
are present in the diet.

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12. A method for inhibiting the deterioration of the mental capacity of an aged companion pet which comprises feeding the pet a level of antioxidant or mixture thereof to accomplish this inhibition.
- 5 13. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the pet is a canine.
14. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the canine is at least seven years.
15. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the pet is a feline.
- 10 16. The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the feline is at least seven years.
17. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein Vitamin E is fed the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by the diet.
- 15 18. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, alpha-lipoic acid l-carnitine or mixtures thereof is fed the pet.
19. The method of claim 12 wherein amounts of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixture thereof are fed the pet.
- 20 20. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C is fed the pet.
21. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid is fed the pet.
22. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine is fed the pet.
- 25 23. A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements of an aged pet and further comprising at least about 100 ppm of Vitamin E, at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C, at least about

- 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic and at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine in the diet.
24. The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the aged pet is a canine of at least 7 years.
- 5 25. The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the aged pet is a feline of at least seven years.
26. A method for increasing the mental capacity of an aged companion pet which comprises feeding the pet a diet having a sufficient amount of antioxidant or mixture thereof to accomplish the increase.
- 10 27. The method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the pet is a canine.
28. The method in accordance with claim 27 wherein the canine is at least seven years.
- 15 29. The method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the pet is a feline.
30. The method in accordance with claim 29 wherein the feline is at least seven years.
- 20 31. The method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the Vitamin E is fed the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by the diet.
32. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, alpha-lipoic acid, l-carnitine or mixture thereof is fed the pet.
- 25 33. The method of claim 26 wherein amounts of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixture thereof are fed the pet.
34. The method of claim 33 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C is fed the pet.

- 35. The method of claim 33 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid is fed the pet.
- 36. The method of claim 33 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine is fed the pet.
- 5 37. A companion pet diet meeting the nutritional requirements and having enough antioxidant or mixture thereof to increase the mental capacity of an aged pet.
- 38. A method for improving a companion pet's ability in its aged years to resist oxidative damage which comprises feeding pet in its aged years a diet meeting nutritional requirements, said diet having at least about 25 ppm lipoic acid and said diet being fed for at least about one month.

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